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Item 7 (j) of the provisional agenda*
Activities not classified by field: coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-fifth session

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-fifth session (Vienna, 18-20 September 2001). The report is transmitted to the commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-second session.** In its discussion under relevant agenda items, the Commission may wish to take into account the views expressed by the Subcommittee, which may be reviewed below as follows:

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* E/CN.3/2002/1.
** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 4* (E/2001/24), chap. I, sect. A.

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Report of the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-fifth session

Vienna, 18-20 September 2001

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I. Introduction

1. The Subcommittee on Statistical Activities held its thirty-fifth session in Vienna from 18 to 20 September 2001. The agenda is contained in annex I, the list of participants in annex II and the list of documents in annex III.

II. Matters for endorsement or approval of the High-level Committee on Programmes

2. The following matters are brought to the attention of the High-level Committee on Programmes. The Subcommittee:

(a) Took note of five major new initiatives planned by organizations and the coordination involved in them (see para. 10 below);

(b) Decided to take steps to improve the coordination of data sets that may be disseminated by different organizations covering the same subject matter (see para. 14 below);

(c) Adopted principles for disseminating statistics on the Internet (see paras. 15 and 16 below);

(d) Welcomed the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Division to harmonize their estimation methods on adult mortality (see paras. 17 and 18 below);

(e) Identified issues that the Statistical Commission may wish to discuss (see paras. 20-22 below);

(f) Provided comments on the report of the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission entitled "An assessment of the statistical indicators derived from United Nations Summit meetings" (see para. 23 below);

(g) Commented on the work and plans of the United Nations Statistics Division relating to the review of global progress towards the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see para. 25 below);

(h) Took steps to review reported instances of duplication in statistical data collection from countries (see paras. 26 and 27 below);

(i) Endorsed the contents of the letter dated 25 June 2001 from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division to the Secretary of the ACC, responding to the new approaches advocated by the High-level Committee on Programmes (see para. 34 below and annex IV);

(j) Made decisions concerning its own functioning and elected A. Flatt of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as Chairman of the Subcommittee, with effect from the opening of the thirty-sixth session, in 2002 (see paras. 35-38 below);

(k) Adopted the provisional agenda for its thirty-sixth session, which it decided to hold at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 19 September 2002 (see para. 39 below). The provisional agenda was agreed as follows:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Subcommittee

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Matters arising from the thirty-fifth session of the Subcommittee.

   Documentation

   Note by the Secretariat on the follow-up to the thirty-fifth session of the Subcommittee

3. Major new initiatives planned by organizations.

   Documentation

   Notes by organizations

4. Issues related to the work of the task forces and inter-secretariat working groups.

   Documentation

   Reports of the Task Forces on Finance Statistics, International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Statistics of International Trade in Services and National Accounts, and of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

5. Collection of disaggregated statistics from countries by international organizations.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Children's Fund

6. Programme review of services statistics for the Statistical Commission for 2003.

7. Coordination of development indicators in the context of follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Statistics Division

8. Reporting on the review of global progress towards the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Statistics Division

9. Good practices in citation in the outputs of international statistical offices.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

10. Duplication of data collection from countries.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Statistics Division

11. Coordination of data sets disseminated by different organizations covering the same subject matter.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Statistics Division

12. Issues relating to the assessment of the quality of statistical data in developing countries.

Documentation

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

13. Quality assurance for statistics in international statistical services.

Documentation

Report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

14. Other matters relating to the Statistical Commission.

15. Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections.

Documentation

Report of the Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections

16. Review of the ACC subsidiary machinery.

17. Other business.

18. Dates, place and agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee.

19. Report of the Subcommittee on its thirty-sixth session.

III. Work of the Subcommittee

A. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. The Subcommittee adopted the agenda as set out in annex I.

B. Adoption of the report of the Subcommittee on its thirty-fourth session

4. The Subcommittee adopted its report on its thirty-fourth session (see E/CN.3/2001/22).

C. Matters arising from the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommittee

5. The Subcommittee noted that all the matters requiring consideration were scheduled to be taken up under other items of its agenda, except for the three items discussed below, which the Subcommittee considered under this item.

1. Electronic commerce

6. The Subcommittee took note of the discussions on electronic commerce at a meeting of the International Statistical Institute held in Seoul, from 22 to 29 August 2001, and of the plans to include electronic commerce as an item on the agenda of the Statistical Commission in 2002, on the basis of papers to be prepared by several countries, with the objective of determining the best way to move work ahead at the international level on definitions and approaches to data collection on electronic commerce.

2. United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report

7. The Subcommittee noted that the Statistical Commission, at its thirty-second session, in 2001:

(a) Considered that the report of the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission entitled "An assessment of the statistical criticisms made of the *Human Development Report 1999*"[1] (E/CN.3/2001/18) was thorough, balanced and fair;

(b) Welcomed the response of the Human Development Report Office to the report of the Friends of the Chair;

(c) Accepted the proposals made by the Office to submit a paper to the Commission at its thirty-third session on the needs of users of statistics of human development and on the implementation of the report of the Friends of the Chair.

8. The Subcommittee welcomed the oral report of the Office on the improvements it had made in the use and presentation of statistics in the *Report*, and welcomed the continuing efforts of the Office in that regard.

3. Tourism satellite account

9. The Subcommittee welcomed the positive response of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to the letter dated 25 June 2001 that it had received from the Chairman of the Subcommittee, at the request of the Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session, expressing the concerns of the Subcommittee regarding the OECD publication *Measuring the Role of Tourism in OECD Economies: the OECD Manual on Tourism Satellite Accounts and Employment*[2] (see E/CN.3/2001/22, para. 20); the OECD response indicated that cooperation on tourism statistics between the World Tourism Organization and OECD is proceeding successfully. The Subcommittee noted that both OECD and the World Tourism Organization are optimistic about their future cooperation with each other and with other agencies on tourism statistics.

D. Major new initiatives planned by organizations

1. Industrial statistics database according to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3[3] on CD-ROM (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

2. Technical report on surveys in developing and transition countries (United Nations Statistics Division)

3. Establishing a joint United Nations Development Programme-Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific poverty monitoring project

4. International Monetary Fund update: reports on the observance of standards and codes and the data quality assessment framework

5. Strengthening statistical capacity in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region (United Nations Statistics Division and Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia)

6. Progress towards the 1996 World Food Summit target on the numbers of undernourished (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

10. The Subcommittee took note of the above initiatives and the coordination involved in them.

E. Proposed common questionnaire for organizations to collect data on expenditure by visitors in countries

11. Some concern was expressed as to whether an adequate range of countries and interested international organizations have been involved in the development of the proposed common questionnaire to date. However, the Subcommittee noted that the common questionnaire is intended to be an aid to countries and is not intended to be compulsory. The Subcommittee welcomed the draft, and considered that it provides a good basis for further cooperative development among organizations and countries.

F. Good practices in citation in the outputs of international statistical offices

12. The Subcommittee decided to include this item on the agenda for its thirty-sixth session; requested the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to prepare a report; and requested organizations to provide their views to UNESCO for that report.

G. Statistics part of the ACC programme classification

13. The Subcommittee agreed that the Classification of Statistics and Statistical Activities (previously referred to as the statistics part of the ACC programme classification) is correctly set out in ACC document SA/2001/9 (see also E/CN.3/2002/L.4, annex), reflecting the approval given by the Subcommittee at its thirty-third session (see E/CN.3/2000/19, para. 2 (b)).

H. Coordination of data sets that may be disseminated by different organizations covering the same subject matter

14. The Subcommittee agreed that this subject is important and complicated, covering many aspects of how international organizations collect, process and disseminate statistics and try to assure quality. The Subcommittee decided to include the item on the agenda of its thirty-sixth session; requested the United Nations Statistics Division to prepare a document on the subject; and invited organizations to provide inputs to the Division within three months, based on a structure that the Division would develop and distribute shortly.

I. Placing statistics on the Internet and associated pricing policy

15. The Subcommittee adopted the following principles for disseminating statistical information on the Internet:

(a) The home page should have links to available online statistical data, making the distinction between those available free of charge and those available through subscription;

(b) Statistical data should be presented on the basis of a set of statistical themes; the classification of Statistics and Statistical Activities (see E/CN.3/2002/L.4, annex) could provide such a set of themes;

(c) Publication catalogues should be included, making clear those publications that can be downloaded free of charge and those that can only be acquired by purchase;

(d) Information should be provided on the statistical activities of the organization, especially those involving coordinated/joint activities with other international organizations;

(e) Information should be provided about data quality;

(f) Meta-data should be made available free of charge and in a readily accessible form;

(g) Methodological publications, standards, recommendations and classifications should be made

available, as far as possible free of charge and in a readily accessible form;

(h) Good citation practice should be followed, particularly "version identification" for statistical data.

16. The Subcommittee considered that each organization should continue to set its own policies in relation to the pricing of statistics disseminated on the Internet, including on the extent to which data might be provided free of charge.

J. Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections

17. The Subcommittee received an oral report from WHO, which indicated that:

(a) WHO and the United Nations Population Division will prepare a joint paper for the ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections (SCDEP) on common approaches and differences in methods that they use to create adult mortality estimates, with a view to harmonizing those methods;

(b) WHO and the Population Division have had several exchanges of information already and are much closer in terms of the estimates than before;

(c) The organizations consider it unhelpful to have divergent estimates;

(d) Goodwill exists to improve harmonization.

18. The Subcommittee welcomed the WHO report and its efforts and those of the Population Division to harmonize their estimation methods, and looked forward to the report of SCDEP on its June 2002 session.

K. Quality assurance for statistics in international statistical services

19. The Subcommittee recognized that the issue of quality assurance is important and very broad, and that further analysis to identify the dimensions of the issue of quality will help the Subcommittee to deal with it. The Subcommittee decided to include the item on the agenda of its thirty-sixth session and requested OECD to prepare a report that would:

(a) Review what has already been provided by members of the Subcommittee (see ACC documents SA/2000/10 and Add.1-11);

(b) Look at national experience;

(c) Develop a number of discussion points.

L. Identifying issues that the Statistical Commission may wish to discuss

20. The Subcommittee decided to include on the agenda for its thirty-sixth session an item on the collection of disaggregated statistics by international organizations (including the uses of disaggregated statistics and the reporting burdens on countries), at which time it will decide whether to propose its inclusion on the agenda of a future Statistical Commission session. The Subcommittee requested the United Nations Children's Fund to prepare a report on the subject for its thirty-sixth session.

21. The Subcommittee noted that the multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission already includes subject areas for which several Subcommittee members are responsible, namely, human settlements statistics, statistics of drugs and drug use, agricultural statistics, industrial statistics, tourism statistics and finance statistics.

22. The Subcommittee made the following suggestions concerning the draft multi-year programme of the work of the Commission:

(a) To add information and communications technology statistics;

(b) To include an item on the definition and measurement of the so-called information society sometime after 2002, with a document to be prepared by UNESCO.

M. Coordination of development indicators in the context of follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

23. The Subcommittee welcomed the draft report of the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission, entitled "An assessment of the statistical indicators derived from United Nations summit meetings", which was being prepared for the 2002 session of the

Statistical Commission. Members of the Subcommittee provided a range of comments expressing support for some aspects of the draft and concern about other aspects, and agreed to send any additional comments they might have to the Chairman of the Friends of the Chair by the end of September 2001 to allow completion of the report by early November 2001.

N. Experiences with user-producer dialogues

24. The Subcommittee took note of the experience of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Monetary Fund on the use of user-producer dialogues to improve the understanding between users and producers of statistical information concerning the increasing demands for statistical information and the limited capacity of producers to meet those demands.

O. Reporting on the review of global progress towards the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

25. The Subcommittee noted the work and plans of the United Nations Statistics Division in this area set out in ACC document SA/2001/14; some agencies indicated that additional source agencies are relevant to a number of the targets listed in the document. The United Nations Statistics Division confirmed its intention to approach all the appropriate source agencies at an early stage in the process. Subcommittee members were invited to send any additional comments they might have on the plans and indicate their interest in being consulted on particular areas to Stefan Schweinfest of the United Nations Statistics Division.

P. Duplication of data collection from countries

26. The Subcommittee agreed on the list of organizations that would take the lead for each instance of duplication in data collection specified by countries in ACC document SA/2001/18 and Add.1 and 2. The lead organizations agreed to consult with the other organizations involved and provide a brief report to the United Nations Statistics Division covering the details of the data collection, their assessment as to whether duplication exists or not and the action agreed to by the organizations; the lead organizations agreed to provide the reports to the Division in time to allow it to prepare a consolidated report for the thirty-third session of the Statistical Commission, that is, by December 2001. The Subcommittee also agreed to consider the matter more broadly at its thirty-sixth session, based on the outcome of the current study, the views of the Statistical Commission, the range of points raised by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session and two previously issued documents on the coordination of data collection that the United Nations Statistics Division and the Economic Commission for Europe would circulate.[4]

27. The Subcommittee recognized that some statistical data collection from countries was carried out by divisions other than the statistical divisions of organizations, and re-endorsed previous decisions of the Subcommittee and the ACC system on that matter.[5]

Q. Coordination in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean region

28. The Subcommittee took note of the arrangements that were in place in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean region.

R. Country participation in the World Programmes for the Census of Agriculture

29. The Subcommittee took note of the information provided by FAO on the programmes for the World Census of Agriculture, particularly country participation.

S. Issues related to the work of the task forces and intersecretariat working groups

1. Task Force on Finance Statistics

2. Task Force on International Trade Statistics

3. Task Force on National Accounts

4. Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

5. Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

30. The Subcommittee noted that there were no outstanding coordination issues for the attention of the Subcommittee.

T. Global integrated presentation of the work plans of the international organizations in statistical methodology

31. The Subcommittee noted the progress made on the web site of the global integrated presentation, particularly the establishment of links to the web sites of the author organizations for the "completed work" segment of the database, and the participation of the members of the Subcommittee in maintaining the content of the web site up to date.

U. Other matters relating to the Statistical Commission

32. The Subcommittee noted that, under other items of its agenda, the necessary collaboration on preparations for the thirty-third session of the Statistical Commission had been covered, namely, work on national accounts, price statistics, e-commerce, coordination of development indicators, statistics of human development and duplication in requests to countries for statistics. The Subcommittee received an update on the preparatory work on statistical capacity-building. The Subcommittee encouraged the necessary collaboration by Subcommittee members.

33. In respect of follow-up to the thirty-second session of the Statistical Commission, the Subcommittee noted that any necessary action that involved members of the Subcommittee had been covered under other agenda items of the Subcommittee, and that the *Handbook of Statistical Organization*[6] had been completed.

V. Review of the ACC subsidiary machinery

34. The Subcommittee endorsed the contents of the letter dated 25 June 2001 from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division to the Secretary of ACC, responding to the new approaches advocated by the High-level Committee on Programmes that the Secretary of ACC had summarized in his letter of 3 May 2001 to the Director of the Division; the letter of the Director is set out in annex IV.

W. Functioning of the Subcommittee

35. The Subcommittee reviewed several aspects of its functioning, including the functioning of its Bureau. The Subcommittee recalled that the Bureau had been established at its twenty-seventh session, in 1993, on an experimental basis, with terms of reference to provide guidance to the overall work of the Subcommittee, including (a) to follow up the decisions of the Subcommittee session during the inter-meeting period, and (b) to plan the next session of the Subcommittee. The Bureau had also been established to see the Subcommittee through a transition in its organizational arrangements, which had included a change in the Chairmanship, a change in the length of its meetings and a change in reporting the outcomes of its meetings (see ACC/1993/1, para. 13). The Subcommittee considered that the Bureau had succeeded in its work. However, the Subcommittee considered that the Subcommittee membership is small enough for its Chairman and secretariat to consult between meetings with the full membership, as necessary, rather than through a (small) Bureau, especially through the use of email. The Subcommittee therefore decided to disband its Bureau.

36. The Subcommittee recognized that some papers for the Subcommittee's sessions were intended to share information; these should be clearly marked as such. Others were intended to provide a basis for discussion and action; these should be more action and decision oriented; in particular, it was thought that papers should contain proposals, recommendations or discussion points for the Subcommittee to consider and act on.

37. The Subcommittee noted the need to constantly try to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its work, and agreed that its work should continue to

include actions in between meetings, noting that under several agenda items of the current session, specific action was called for on the part of members. It was noted that additional hours on some days may be needed so as to give adequate coverage to all items on the agenda within the days agreed for the meetings.

38. The Subcommittee elected A. Flatt of ESCAP as Chairman, with effect from the opening of its thirty-sixth session, in 2002.

X. Dates, place and agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the Subcommittee

39. The Subcommittee adopted the provisional agenda for its thirty-sixth session (see para. 2 (k) above), which it decided to hold at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 19 September 2002. The Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to distribute the provisional agenda six months in advance of the session to enable members to modify the agenda if necessary and to reconsider the need for the session to be held as scheduled.

Notes

[1] New York, Oxford University Press, 1999.

[2] Paris, 2000.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.11.

[4] "Inventory of statistical data-collection activities" (E/CN.3/AC.1/1993/R.6 of 7 July 1993); and "Joint data collection: 1998/1999 update" (CES/1999/19 of 23 March 1999).

[5] See "Main conclusions/agreements on the coordination of data-collection activities by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and the Organizational Committee of ACC", unnumbered background paper prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division for the thirty-fourth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (Washington, D.C., 20-22 September 2000).

[6] Statistical Papers, Series F, No. 28/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

Annex I

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Adoption of the report of the thirty-fourth session.
3. Matters arising from the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommittee.
4. Major new initiatives planned by organizations.
5. Issues related to the work of the task forces and intersecretariat working groups.
6. Proposed common questionnaire for organizations to collect data on expenditure by visitors in countries.
7. Good practices in citation in the outputs of international statistical offices.
8. The statistics part of the ACC programme classification.
9. Placing statistics on the Internet and associated pricing policy.
10. Coordination of data sets that may be disseminated by different organizations covering the same subject matter.
11. Coordination of development indicators in the context of follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits.
12. Experiences with user-producer dialogues.
13. Reporting on the review of global progress towards the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.
14. Quality assurance for statistics in international statistical services.
15. Global integrated presentation of the work plans of the international organizations in statistical methodology.
16. Other matters relating to the Statistical Commission.
17. Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections.
18. Review of the ACC subsidiary machinery.
19. Other business:
    (a) Functioning of the Subcommittee;
    (b) Dates, place and agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the Subcommittee;
    (c) Identifying issues that the Statistical Commission might discuss;
    (d) Duplication of data collection from countries;
    (e) Coordination in the ECLAC region;
    (f) Country participation in the programmes for the World Census of Agriculture.

Annex II

List of participants

United Nations entities and programmes

Department of Economic and Social Affairs	
United Nations Statistics Division	Hermann Habermann Richard Roberts (Secretary)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Enrique Ordaz
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Andrew Flatt
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Hussein A. Sayed
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Henri Laurencin
United Nations Development Programme	Tom Griffin
United Nations Children's Fund	Gareth Jones (Chairman)
United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention	Adrian Moicean

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization	Sylvester Young
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Alvaro Gonzalez-Villalobos
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Denise Lievesley
World Health Organization	Alan Lopez
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Tetsuo Yamada

Other international and non-governmental organizations

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	Denis Ward
World Tourism Organization	Antonio Massieu
World Trade Organization	Roslyn Jackson
Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States	Mikhail A. Korolev
Expert on indicators	Tim Holt

Annex III

List of documents

Document No.	*Agenda item(s)*	*Title or description*
SA/2001/1	1	Provisional agenda
SA/2001/1/Add.1	1	Proposed schedule of discussion
SA/2001/1/Add.2	1	Addendum to the provisional agenda
SA/2001/2	3	Report of the Bureau meeting, Washington,.D.C., 22 September 2000
SA/2001/3	3	Report of the Bureau meeting, New York, 7 March 2001
SA/2001/4	3	Matters arising from the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommittee: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/5	4	Major new initiatives planned by organizations: UNIDO statistical activities, 2001 — ongoing initiatives
SA/2001/5/Add.1	4	Major new initiatives planned by organizations: technical report on surveys in developing and transition countries: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/5/Add.2	4	Major new initiatives planned by organizations: establishment of a joint UNDP-ESCAP poverty monitoring project: note by ESCAP
SA/2001/5/Add.3	4	Major new initiatives planned by organizations: IMF update: reports on the observance of standards and codes and the data quality assessment framework
SA/2001/5/Add.4	4	Major new initiatives planned by organizations: strengthening statistical capacity in the ESCWA region: note by ESCWA
SA/2001/6	5	Issues related to the work of the task forces and intersecretariat working groups: Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics: note by IMF
SA/2001/6/Add.1	5	Issues related to the work of the task forces and intersecretariat working groups: Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics: note by the ILO
SA/2001/6/Add.2	5	Issues related to the work of the task forces and intersecretariat working groups: Task Force on International Trade Statistics: report by the World Trade Organization
SA/2001/6/Add.3	5	Issues related to the work of the task forces and intersecretariat working groups: Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services: report by OECD

Document No.	*Agenda item(s)*	*Title or description*
SA/2001/7	6	Proposed common questionnaire for organizations to collect data on expenditure by visitors in countries: research on international experience in measuring tourism expenditure associated with inbound tourism: report by the World Tourism Organization
SA/2001/8	7	Good practices in citation in the outputs of international statistical offices (not issued)
SA/2001/9	8	Classification of statistics and statistical activities (the statistics part of the ACC programme classification): note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/10	9	Dissemination of data on the Internet and the associated pricing policy: note by OECD
SA/2001/11	10	Coordination of data sets disseminated by more than one organization (not issued)
SA/2001/12	11	Coordination of development indicators in the context of follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/13	12	Experiences with user-producer dialogues: note by Eurostat
SA/2001/13/Add.1	12	Experiences with user-producer dialogues: note by IMF
SA/2001/14	13	Reporting on the review of global progress towards the Millennium Declaration goals: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/14/Add.1	13	Reporting on the review of global progress towards the Millennium Declaration goals: synthesis of discussion on the Habitat millennium goal indicators: note by Habitat
SA/2001/15	16	Other matters relating to the Statistical Commission: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/16	18	Review of the ACC machinery: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/17	19 (c)	Identifying issues that the Statistical Commission might discuss: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/18	19 (d)	Duplication of data collection from countries: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/18/Add.1	19 (d)	Duplication of data collection from countries: English translation of response by Colombia to request on duplication of data collection

Document No.	*Agenda item(s)*	*Title or description*
SA/2001/18/Add.2	19 (d)	Duplication of data collection from countries: comments by the Commissioner of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics
SA/2001/19	14	Quality assurance for statistics in international statistical services: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2001/20	19 (f)	Country participation in the Programmes for the World Census of Agriculture: note by FAO
SA/2001/21	4 and 12	Major new initiatives planned by organizations and experiences with user-producer dialogues: note by FAO
SA/2000/10	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by the United Nations Population Division
SA/2000/10/Add.1	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by the UNDP Human Development Report Office
SA/2000/10/Add.2	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by the United Nations Statistics Division
SA/2000/10/Add.3	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by the World Tourism Organization
SA/2000/10/Add.4	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by FAO
SA/2000/10/Add.5	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by the World Trade Organization
SA/2000/10/Add.6	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by the ILO
SA/2000/10/Add.7	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by ESCAP
SA/2000/10/Add.8	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by UNIDO
SA/2000/10/Add.9	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by ECE
SA/2000/10/Add.10	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by OECD
SA/2000/10/Add.11	14	Quality assurance, arrangements with common questionnaire and conflicting statistics: note by the World Bank

Document No.	*Agenda item(s)*	*Title or description*
ACC/2000/16	2, 3	Report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-fourth session, 20-22 September 2000, Washington, D.C.
Unnumbered	5	Meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics, Frankfurt, 11-13 October 2000 (prepared by IMF)
Unnumbered	5	Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics: minutes of the third meeting of the Technical Expert Group for updating the Manual on Consumer Price Indices, Washington, D.C., 5-6 February 2001 (prepared by the ILO)
Unnumbered	5	Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics: minutes of the fourth meeting of the Technical Expert Group for updating the Manual on Consumer Price Indices, Geneva, 25-26 June 2001 (prepared by the ILO)
Unnumbered	5	Minutes of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics, Beirut, 27-29 March 2001 (prepared by the World Trade Organization)
Unnumbered	5	Reports of the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, Paris, 13 December 2000 and 3-4 May 2001 (prepared by OECD)
Unnumbered	5	Introduction to the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services to the Statistical Commission 2001 (prepared by OECD)
Unnumbered	19 (e)	Briefing note on the first United Nations Inter-Agency Technical Coordination Meeting on Regional Statistical Information, Santiago, 8 May 2001 (prepared by ECLAC)
Unnumbered	11	Draft report on an assessment of the statistical indicators derived from United Nations summit meetings (prepared by the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission for the thirty-third session of the Commission)

Annex IV

Letter dated 25 June 2001 from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division to the Secretary of ACC responding to the new approaches advocated by the High-level Committee on Programmes

1. I refer to Mr. Civili's letter to me of 3 May 2001, in which he reported on the outcomes of the first regular session of the High-level Committee on Programmes relating to the review of the subsidiary machinery of ACC, including some specific questions concerning inter-agency activities in statistics. Mr. Civili asked that my response to his letter be directed to you.

2. Consultations were held by email with members and observers of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities during the period 14-22 June 2001, based on Mr. Civili's letter, the report of the High-level Committee on Programmes on its first regular session and a note that had been provided to Mr. Civili by the secretariat of the Subcommittee on 19 January 2001 on the functioning and outputs of the Subcommittee. The present letter reflects those consultations.

3. The ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities welcomes the fact that the High-level Committee on Programmes recognized that the areas covered by the existing ACC machinery correspond to areas where organized inter-agency cooperation remains necessary; that view is shared strongly by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities in relation to the statistical area.

4. The Subcommittee is committed to responding in a positive way to the new approaches advocated by the High-level Committee on Programmes; the Subcommittee notes that much of its modus operandi is already consistent with what is advocated but recognizes that further effort in the directions advocated is desirable and possible.

5. The Subcommittee's work over the years has largely been agenda-driven and output-driven, but the Subcommittee has always considered that regular formal meetings are important to maintain a broad-based collaborative framework; the agendas of meetings have been broad in coverage and dynamic — the work of the organizations in statistics is characterized by change, including most recently the need to respond to the statistical demands emanating from the major United Nations conferences and the necessary work on indicators requested by the Economic and Social Council; the agendas have invited and indeed required attendance at the meetings by most if not all members of the Subcommittee; the agendas are set in a very flexible way and adjusted right up to the opening of sessions to reflect emerging needs and problems. Bilateral and multilateral contact continues throughout the year on specific issues, and email is the standard technology for communication. The concept of task managers and lead agencies is applied, largely based on organizational responsibilities and on interest or the special skills and knowledge of individual Subcommittee members; this is reflected in the fact that documents for the Subcommittee are prepared by a range of organizations. The most important non-United Nations organizations involved in international statistical activities have the status of permanent observers in the Subcommittee and are very actively involved in the work of the Subcommittee, virtually on the same basis as United Nations member organizations.

6. In response to the call of the High-level Committee on Programmes, the Subcommittee will apply rigorously the principle of organizing its meetings on an as-needed basis. However, the Subcommittee believes that, in general, the meetings will continue to have agendas that call for the widest participation by organizations and representation at the highest level, i.e., directors of statistics divisions. The Subcommittee believes that participation by all members is essential to maintain the fabric and culture of coordination that has been developed. The Bureau of the Subcommittee meets each year when the United Nations Statistical Commission meets; however, a "full ACC Subcommittee" meeting, at the time of an intergovernmental meeting, such as the Statistical Commission, is not considered feasible given the other demands that exist on all subcommittee members, especially on the Secretariat (the United Nations Statistics Division), at the time of the Statistical Commission. However, the Subcommittee could consider a limited meeting on a single or limited issues around the time of the Statistical Commission. The Subcommittee agrees on the need for periodic evaluation of its work overall and in specific areas. The Subcommittee recognizes the costs that are involved in coordination work, but to date has concluded that the costs are moderate in relation to the positive results.

7. The Subcommittee welcomes the arrangements set out in paragraphs 29 and 30 on flexible reporting and an activist approach by the High-level Committee on Programmes.

8. The Subcommittee proposes to meet as scheduled from 18-20 September 2001 with the attached draft provisional agenda.

9. The final request in Mr. Civili's letter concerned activities related to the follow-up to United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. I would refer to the work being done by the United Nations Statistics Division and the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on the harmonization and rationalization of indicators in the context of follow-up to United Nations conferences, as called for by Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/27 (see E/CN.3/2001/16 and SA/2000/9). That work has been reported to CCPOQ by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities in recent years (see ACC/2000/16, paras. 15 and 16; ACC/1999/16, paras. 2 (c) and 16; and ACC/1998/14, para. 2 (a)). I would also refer to the proposed reporting by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on review of global progress towards the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Both sets of work involve issues of statistical reporting and statistical capacity-building of concern to the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and are included on the agenda of the Subcommittee's meeting scheduled for 18-20 September 2001.

(*Signed*) Hermann **Habermann**
Director
United Nations Statistics Division